

MINUTES

TOWN OF LUDLOW SELECT BOARD

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES January 21, 2013

Board Members Present:

Howard Barton, Jr., Chairman, Brett Sanderson, Bruce Schmidt, Doug Ficken

Staff Present:

Frank Heald

Others Present:

Sharon Bixby (LPC-TV), Anne Gardner (VT Journal), Christian Avard (Rutland Herald), Jim Rumrill

Call to Order:

- a. Chairman, Howard Barton Jr. called the Special Meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Consider & Approve FY 2014 Budget:

- a. Howard Barton, Jr. said the first order of business was to consider and approve the FY 2014 town budget.
- b. Frank Heald said the budget included in the Select Board packets is the same number they talked about in their last budget workshop. He explained that he separated out the Windsor County Tax from Intergovernmental.
- c. Frank Heald reported that the town budget is up 2.6%, and when you include the Windsor County Tax the total budget is up 3.8%.
- d. Frank Heald said that if you subtract the Cemetery budget decrease of 5.2%, there is a net of \$118,461 or a total increase of 3.37% over FY 2013.
- e. Frank Heald said the County Tax has doubled by \$40,000. He said they will warn a County Vote and Judge Singer would be happy to come and talk with the Select Board at their February meeting to give an update on the budget and cost.
- f. Bruce Schmidt asked if there was any discussion with the Museum regarding appropriations. He asked if the Museum stays open for guests in the off season and if they should consider alternate office space to help cut the cost of fuel and operational expenses.
- g. Frank Heald said they have not discussed the Museum operations.
- h. Howard Barton, Jr. said they discussed the appropriations several meetings ago so entities could need to watch their own expenses and whatever was budgeted would be their total budget.
- i. Sharon Bixby said she did remember the Select Board mention this. She said Georgia Brehm indicated there is a 99-year agreement in which the operating expenses are picked up. Sharon believed this was a legal document.
- j. Frank Heald said they will have a conversation about this.
- k. Howard Barton, Jr. asked if there are any other budget changes.
- l. Frank Heald said no. The Select Board needs to put their final stamp. He said he arranged the budget recap and preface so the Select Board can see how it will be presented to the voters. He said miscellaneous expenses are up by 1%.

- m. Brett Sanderson asked if the new highway truck was a tandem.
- n. Frank Heald said it was a single axle and they would correct the description.
- o. Christian Avard asked if the Mill Street Bridge, Culverts and Storm Drain improvements are related to Irene.
- p. Frank Heald said there isn't anything planned for the Mill Street Bridge and the improvements are not Irene related.
- q. Frank Heald said the Select Board can approve the budget tonight and sign the Warning at their next meeting.
- r. MOTION by Bruce Schmidt and seconded by Brett Sanderson to approve the FY 2014 Town Budget for \$3,328,748.25. All in favor and the motion passed.
- s. Frank Heald reported that he received a draft of the Town financials today and there were no anomalies. He said draft management letter is clean and the single audit is also clean and hoped to have signed copies by the end of the week.

Consider Article for Middle School Summer Program:

- a. Frank Heald said they began the thought process for this program at their last meeting. He said a planning committee met with the 8th and 9th graders and a synopsis of their ideas is included in the Select Board packets.
- b. Frank Heald said the 8th graders worked harder to come up with ideas and seemed to favor the vocational end, such as welding. He said they were also interested in sign language.
- c. Frank Heald said the 9th graders were very interested in conversational languages and other related activities. He said when they asked the students who would be interested in this participating in the new program he couldn't believe how quickly their hands went up.
- d. Frank Heald said there is an excellent video on the Ludlow Rotary's website from the Jaffrey/Rindge Quest program that they are modeling the Ludlow program after.
- e. Frank Heald explained that the Middle School Summer Program would run parallel with the Recreation Department's program and would be a cooperative effort with the Town of Ludlow and the Ludlow Rotary Club. He said they would utilize real educators, camp staff and may enlist members of the rotary, press and Ludlow residents to talk about their professions.
- f. Frank Heald said Jim Rumrill was here representing the youth program and would be happy to talk about the financial plan. He said the Ludlow Rotary has pledged \$5,000 toward the project and if Select Board agrees to put this on the ballot for Town Meeting, he will meet with the Mt. Holly Select Board on Thursday night and ask them to consider putting this on their ballot.
- g. Frank Heald said the program budget is \$25,000.
- h. Howard Barton, Jr. said the program would receive \$20,000 from us and asked what the Mt. Holly portion would be.
- i. Frank Head said whatever we get from Mt. Holly would reduce the amount needed to fund the program. He said if the ballot item fails we will still need \$20,000 from our taxpayers and may need to charge Mt. Holly a fee to attend to reduce the expenses.
- j. Bruce Schmidt asked how much Mt. Holly will be asked to contribute.
- k. Frank Heald said they constitute 30% of the students so they would ask for \$6,000 to \$7,000.
- l. Bruce Schmidt suggested they consider using some of the formulas that are in place with the school because the number of kids may fluctuate.
- m. Doug Ficken asked that if Mt. Holly put this forth to the voters and the program starts this year would other towns be able to participate such as Proctorville and Cavendish?

- n. Frank Heald said yes they would on a fee basis. He said the overall idea is to provide something for the youngsters that has direction and will help with later life skills such as filling out a job applications and creating references.
- o. Bruce Schmidt said he totally agrees and added that a focus on checking/savings account and mortgage management would also be helpful.
- p. Bruce Schmidt asked what a day and time schedule would be like.
- q. Frank Heald said it would track the existing summer program and if we used professional educators we would compress their time and include a mix of activities.
- r. Bruce Schmidt said when they introduced the After School Program there was a lack of attendance. He asked what would encourage kids to go to this.
- s. Jim Rumrill said there was great interest expressed when they brought the program forward. He said there was growing optimism and interest from the students. He said they are hoping for higher participation and to get more involved.
- t. Frank Heald said if you watch the Jaffrey video you will see how successful the program is in its year.
- u. Sharon Bixby said as an example they could teach fly fishing and take the kids on a trip to the Battenkill to fish.
- v. Frank Heald said kids could also get credit for community service. He said was a “labor” line item included in the budget so they could pay kids who worked on building or enhancing town property.
- w. Frank Heald said he just needed a straw vote from Select Board members and then they would approve the proposal to put this before the voters for \$20,000 on Australian ballot.
- x. The consensus of the Select Board was to approve the Middle School Summer Program.
- y. Bruce Schmidt asked if Frank Heald was aware of a grant with free/reduced lunches relating to kids from Mt. Holly.
- z. Frank Heald said he would look into this.

Adjourn:

- a. MOTION by Brett Sanderson and seconded by Doug Ficken to adjourn. All in favor and the motion passed.
- b. Meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Cruickshank
Acting Clerk

Howard Barton Jr., Chairman

John Neal

Bruce Schmidt

Brett Sanderson

Douglas Ficken